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REMARKS

Claims 1-87 are pending in the subject U.S. patent application. Claims 1-87 as filed have been subjected to a Restriction/Election Requirement. In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement, Applicants have elected the claims of Group I, claims 1-10 and 17-18, for prosecution at this time. Claims 11-16 and 19-87 are withdrawn from prosecution. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to the unelected subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended herein by the following textual insertion: "An isolated polypeptide comprising a functional SLC26A6 polypeptide having at least about 99% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2." Support for this amendment can be found throughout the claims and specification as filed and, in particular, at page 27 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this claim amendment.

Claim 2 has been amended herein by the deleting the dependency on claim 1 and by the following textual insertions and deletions at part (b): "a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid having at least about 70% sequence identity substantially identical to any one of odd-numbered SEQ ID NOs:1-7." Support for this amendment can be found throughout the claims and specification as filed and, in particular, at page 19 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this claim amendment.

Claim 2 has been further amended herein at part (d) by the following textual insertions and deletions: "a polypeptide having at least about 85% sequence identity substantially identical to any one of even-numbered SEQ ID NOs:24-8." Support for this amendment can be found throughout the claims and specification as filed and, in particular, at page 27 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this claim amendment.

Claims 3-7 have been amended herein by the changing the dependency on claim 1 to claim 2. In addition, the typographical error in the dependency of

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claim 8 is herein amended by changing the dependency from claim 8 to claim 2. The typographical error in the dependency of claim 10 is herein amended by changing the dependency from claim 1 to claim 8. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the claims and specification as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this claim amendment.

CONCLUSIONS

Should there be any minor issues outstanding in this matter the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

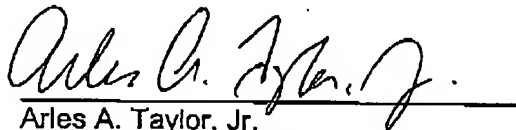
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11-05-2007

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